

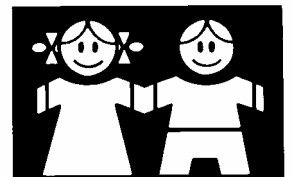
1998-2003

Child Safety Seat Check Up Event Findings

February 2004



Report prepared by Louisiana SAFE KIDS, a program of
the Louisiana Office of Public Health &
Children's Hospital



CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL

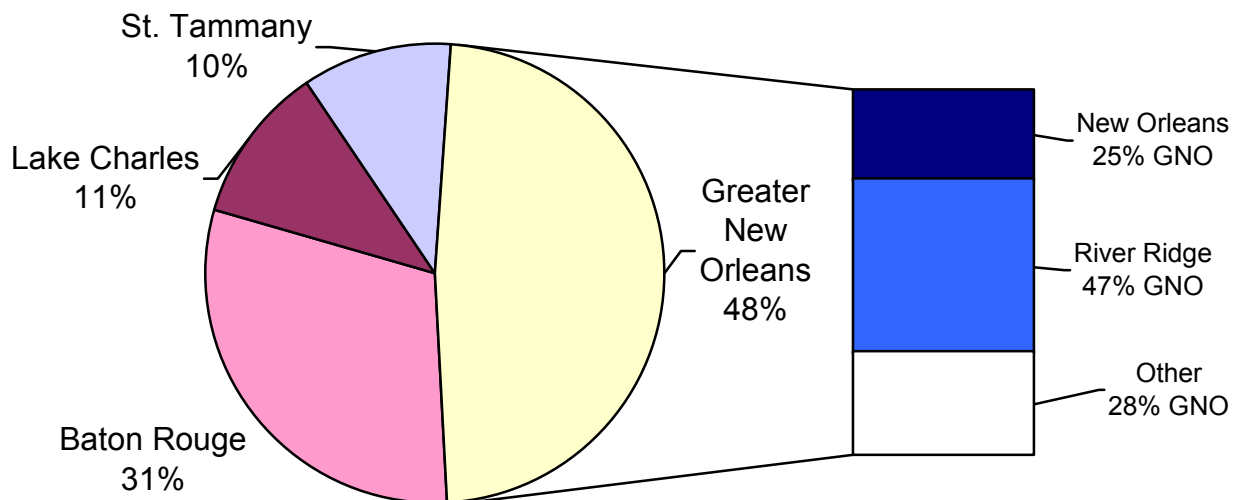
Louisiana SAFE KIDS Child Safety Seat Check Up Survey Results: 1998 – 2003

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of unintentional injury death for all children less than 15 years of age. Injuries from motor vehicle crashes result in the largest number of years of life lost before age 65 and cost more than any other childhood injury. Motor vehicle crashes account for over 40 percent of the total number of unintentional child injury deaths in the state. The majority of motor vehicle deaths result from fatal head injuries, especially among the youngest children. Severe and serious nonfatal injuries, primarily brain and spinal cord injuries and facial disfigurement, have devastating effects on the child, the family, the community and society as a whole.

Correctly installed and used child safety seats reduce the risk of death by 71% for infants, by 54% for toddlers, and reduce the need for hospitalization by 69% for children ages 4 and under.

Data included in this report was submitted to Louisiana SAFE KIDS by February 12, 2004 by members of the Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force.

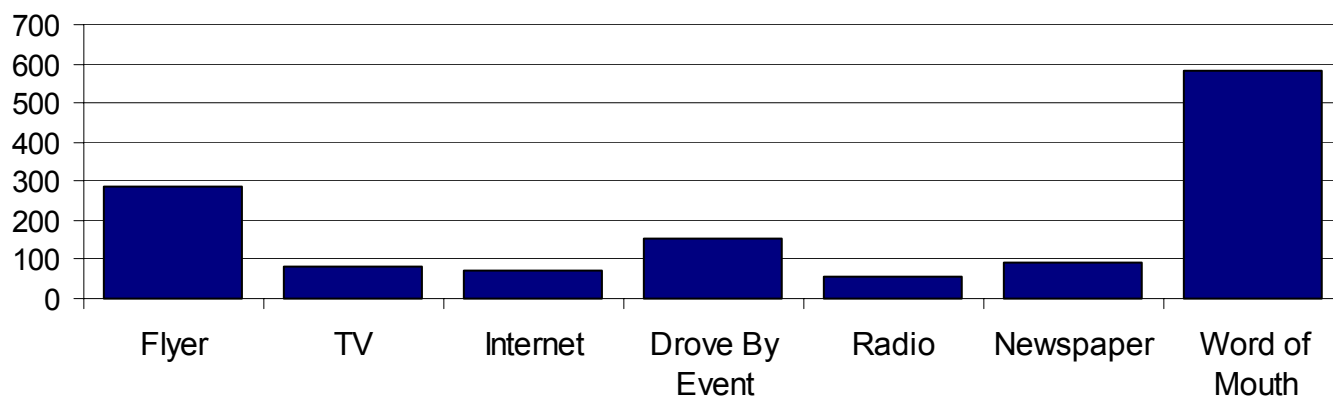
Locations of community child restraint check ups: 2003 N=1767



NOTE: Denominators will change due to varying data points. Whenever possible, the numerator and denominator are provided.

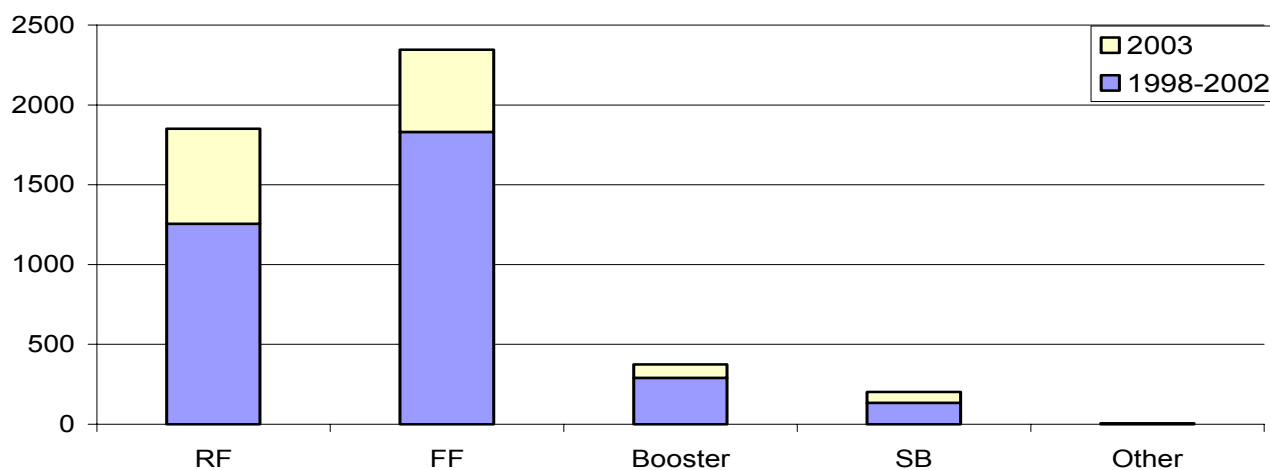
How did people hear about the event?

2003, N=1316 (Note: multiple responses allowed)



Types of Safety Seats Checked: 1998-2003

N=4779



Seats recalled or replaced: **596**

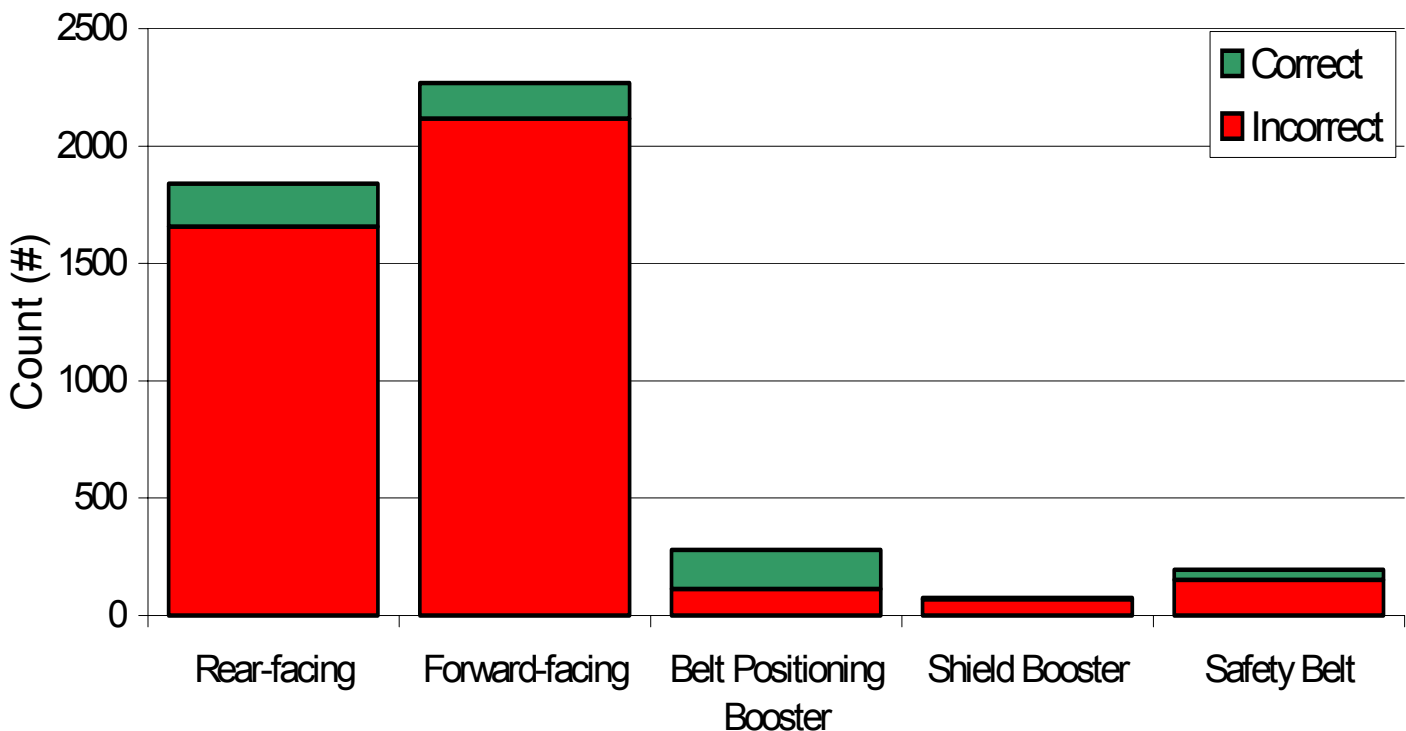
An additional **882** child safety seats arrived uninstalled and are not included in these results.

Misuse

- 90% (1657/1839) of the rear-facing seats were used incorrectly
- 93% (2118/2268) of the forward facing seats were used incorrectly
- 40% (114/280) of the belt positioning booster seats were used incorrectly
- 93% (70/75) of the shield booster seats were used incorrectly
- 78% (152/196) safety belt systems were misused

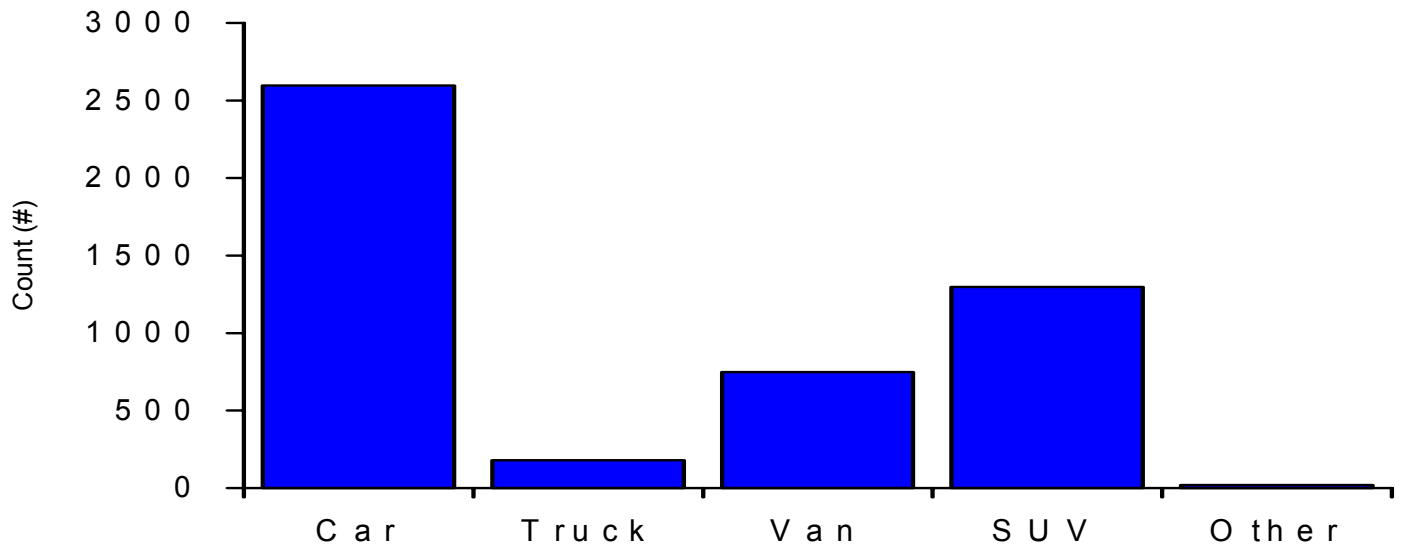
92% of all rear and forward facing child safety seats checked were misused.

Installation of Child Restraint Seats
1998-2003, N=4658



About the vehicle:

Types of Vehicles at Events by Type
1998-2003, N=4842



About the child restraints

Infant/rear facing convertible seats:



1,839 seats checked, 182 with
no misuse → 90% misused

- A different child safety seat was recommended for 115 children.
- Seat converted to forward facing: 31

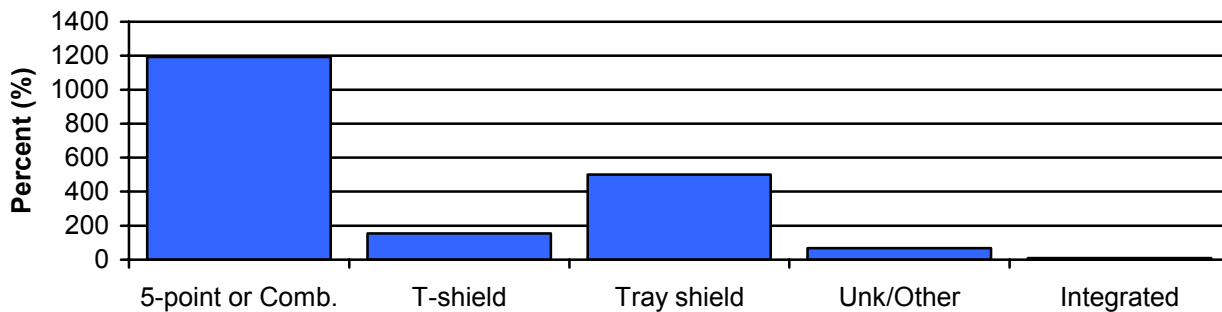
Misuse	#wrong/# seats	Percent Misused
Safety belt not locked or holding seat tightly in vehicle	1404/1813	77
Harness straps not snug	936/1301	72
Locking clip not used correctly	312/500	62
Harness clip not at armpit level	650/1299	50
Carrying handle in correct position for travel	261/736	35
Seat not reclined appropriately	564/1755	32
Harness straps not at or below shoulders	293/1401	21
Harness not threaded correctly	141/990	14
Harness clip not secured and threaded correctly	189/1563	12
Safety belt not routed correctly	172/1810	10
Child not in manufacturer's recommended height/weight range for seat	84/1715	5
Harness clip not used, if needed	59/1493	4
Seat not rear facing	55/1835	3
Seat in front of active airbag	27/1787	2
Seat not appropriate for use rear facing	5/1223	<1

Forward facing convertible/toddler seats:



2,268 seats checked, 150 with no misuse → 93% misused

Forward Facing Car Seat Harness Type
1998-2003, N=1925



- Converted to rear facing: 79
- Recommended different safety seat: 194
- Converted to belt-positioning booster: 88
- Counseled on tethers: 369

Misuse	#wrong/# seats	Percent Misused
Safety belt not locked or holding seat tightly in vehicle	1808/2235	81
Harness straps not snug	1236/1738	71
Locking clip not used correctly, if needed	429/659	65
Tether not used correctly	188/358	53
Harness clip not at armpit level	814/1692	48
Harness straps not at or above shoulders	573/1993	29
Harness straps not secured and threaded correctly	397/1425	28
Harness clip not at threaded correctly	338/2013	17
Seat not upright	234/2265	10
Safety belt not routed correctly	171/2237	8
Forward facing not appropriate for child	101/1464	7
Child not in manufacturer's recommended height/weight range for seat	122/2263	5
Harness clip not used, if needed	84/2121	4
Seat not appropriate for use forward facing	16/1482	1

Booster Seats:

280 belt positioning
boosters checked → 41%
misused



75 shield boosters checked → 93%
misused

Of children in shield boosters, a
different safety seat was recommended for
more than half of the children (53%).

Misuse – Belt Positioning Booster	#wrong/# seats	Percent Misused
Lap and shoulder belts do not fit the child	73/226	32
Belt not routed correctly	46/217	21
Child not in manufacturer's recommended height/weight range for seat	30/263	11

Misuse – Shield Booster	#wrong/# seats	Percent Misused
Belt not holding the seat in tightly	42/59	71
Shield not snug	24/58	41
Child not in manufacturer's recommended height/weight range for seat	26/73	36
Belt not routed correctly	14/53	26



Vehicle Safety Belts:

196 children arrived using an adult safety belt for occupant protection→
78% misuse

Vehicle Safety Belt	#wrong/# belts	Percent Misused
Lap belt does not fit correctly	111/150	74
Shoulder belt does not fit correctly	115/143	80
Child's knees do not reach edge of seat (slouching)	108/152	71
Child's back not against vehicle seat back	67/147	46

This summary prepared and provided by Louisiana SAFE KIDS, Inc.,
a program of the Louisiana Office of Public Health (OPH) and Children's Hospital.

Data compiled from all completed National SAFE KIDS Campaign and Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force checklists submitted to Louisiana SAFE KIDS, Inc. by February 12, 2004.

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